

Important Notice Regarding Vaccine Issues

Idaho Immunization Program

August 26, 2005

(Please share this with all immunization staff members)

***** Influenza Vaccine Update *****

If you haven't already done so, it is once again time to place pediatric Influenza orders with the Idaho Immunization program (IIP). The Centers for Disease Control and the IIP are still accepting orders for FluMist (Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine). The minimum order for this vaccine is 20 doses; there are a very limited number of doses of FluMist available and as soon as they are spoken for the IIP will not be able to order any more. In estimating your use of FluMist, please consider that within the Idaho Immunization Program you may use FluMist for Healthy children and adolescents aged 5 through 18 years who are household contacts or out-of-home caregivers of persons in high-risk groups, provided that the contacts are not severely immunocompromised and requiring care in a protective environment.

The IIP will also provide Aventis brand Fluzone in both Thimerosal free pre-filled syringes for infants 6 months to 3 years of age and Fluzone (Contains Thimerosal) in 10 dose vials for children 3 years of age through 18 years of age in categories as defined by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the 2005/2006 Inactivated Influenza Vaccine Information Statement.

The IIP expects an adequate supply of infant Fluzone in pre-filled syringes to fill all provider orders for the 2005/2006 influenza season. However, there may not be enough Pediatric Fluzone in 10 dose vials to fill all provider orders completely. Fluzone will be shipped to the IIP in multiple shipments during the course of the season by the manufacturer. So, initial orders for more than 20 doses of Fluzone will only be partially filled until additional vaccine arrives. It has been typical over the last few years for influenza vaccine to arrive in multiple shipments from September through January. Fluzone distribution is expected to be much the same this year as it was last year.

For the 2005/2006 season, please submit your pediatric influenza orders as soon as possible. Please order only the number of doses you think you will actually use; additional orders may be placed anytime during the season if additional vaccine is needed. The IIP will provide Influenza VIS statements for IIP distributed flu vaccine.

Additional updates and information on the 2005/2006 influenza season may be found on the Internet at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu>

You may fax your order using this form to 208-334-4914 or call in your order to 800-554-2922, or to Bob at 334-4949, or Rebecca at 334-6524.

Facility Name	Contact Name	Phone Number	Vaccine type	# of Doses Ordered	# of VIS for Eng - Spa
			FluMist (20 doses min)		-
			Fluzone (Infant syringes)		-
			Fluzone (Pediatric vials)		-

FluMist will ship on dry ice directly from General Injectables and Vaccines. Licensed for healthy people 5 – 49 years.

Fluzone (syringes) licensed for infants 6 months to 3 years of age.

Fluzone (vials) licensed for people 6 months through adults. (Through IIP use for children 3 years through 18 years of age as defined by ACIP guidelines and Inactivated Influenza Vaccine Information Statement.)

Note: Vaccine Coverage among Idaho children 19 -35 Months of age from National Immunization Survey Q3/2003- Q2/2004 Indicates 4:3:1:3:3 is 80.8% (4 or more Doses DTP, 3 or more Polio, 1 or more MCV, 3 or more Hib and 3 or more Hep B doses.) Awesome accomplishment, thanks everyone!

******* Dickson Chart Recorder Update*******

In December of 2004 the IIP began a Dickson chart recorder recalibration project. To date, nearly 200 chart recorders have been replaced with a new version VFC70 Dickson chart recorder. However, completion of this project has been delayed due to unexpected funding considerations. The IIP is currently conducting a search for products that might improve the vaccine temperature monitoring process. As soon as additional funding is available, the IIP will order the temperature monitoring devices best suited for this purpose. They will then be distributed to the remaining providers to replace the original VFC70 chart recorders which are now over 2 years old. Please notify the IIP if your old or new chart recorder is not functioning properly or if your Oregon Scientific Jumbo Thermometer for freezers needs to be replaced. Please contact Bob at 208-334-4949, or Rebecca at 208-334-6524.

******* Pediatric DT Vaccine*******

You may have noticed that the pediatric DT vaccine in your refrigerator expires September 3, 2005, or that the DT vaccine you just received in August expires on October 27, 2005. Unfortunately, the only supply of this vaccine that has been available from Sanofi Pasteur over the last year has had either a Sept 05 or Oct 05 expiration date. Sanofi Pasteur has not been able to tell us when this short out-dated vaccine situation will end, so we will continue to send out the longest outdates we have available.

If DT or any other state supplied vaccine expires or is wasted, please return it to the IIP. It's recommended that returned vaccine be placed snuggly in a cardboard box. You may want to mark the package as "Fragile – Glass" to help protect the glass vials from

breakage. State supplied vaccine is not considered to be a hazardous material, so a simple return address is all that is needed.

Please mail returning vaccine to: Idaho Dept of Health and Welfare, Immunization Program, P O Box 83720 Boise Id 83720-0036.

******* Hepatitis B brand change*******

Merck's Recombivax brand of Hepatitis B Pediatric vaccine is being purchased by the IIP and will replace GlaxoSmithKline's Engerix when the current state supply is exhausted. Recombivax is licensed from birth through 19 years of age and may be given on the same schedule as Engerix. Reports from clinical studies show it may be administered concomitantly with other childhood vaccines as an Intramuscular injection. For full prescribing information, please examine the package insert included in every carton of Recombivax. Recombivax will be furnished as 10 single dose vials per carton. It is not available in a pre-filled syringe presentation.

******* Temperature Incidents on the rise*******

2005 has been an unusual year due to a dramatic increase in the number of incidents involving temperatures that were too warm. This entire year has been dominated by temperatures exceeding the 46° F upper limit for safe vaccine storage. Many of the losses in 2005 have been from preventable circumstances.

Reasons for loss of vaccine included: Did not close the refrigerator door all the way. Cleaning people unplugged the refrigerator and didn't plug it back in. Bumped the temperature control knob and the refrigerator got too warm. Left vaccines out of the refrigerator overnight. Assumed all the vaccine was lost when the temperatures were too warm. Didn't put the vaccine into the refrigerator upon arrival. And closed the office the day the vaccine arrived without notifying the IIP.

Most of these incidents occurred more than once in 2005, most involved more than a thousand dollar loss and virtually all of them were preventable. The IIP needs your help to protect these very valuable vaccines.

Included with this Important Notice is an updated list of manufacturers' telephone numbers for use during temperature incidents. Both the manufacturers and the IIP should be notified regarding any temperature incident. Please don't assume all vaccines are lost in a temperature incident. Please click here (X) for the list of manufacturers' telephone numbers.